

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 214454
ORIGIN EUR-03

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ONY-00 /004 R

DRAFTED BY EUR/SOV:MGARRISON:VB
APPROVED BY EUR/SOV:MGARRISON
DESIRED DISTRIBUTION
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P 080133Z SEP 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 214454

FOR MATLOCK FROM GARRISON

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OGEN

SUBJECT: OFFICIAL-INFORMAL

1. RE HARRIS VISIT, HUD INTERPRETED RECENT GREENBERG/
RASSIAS TELECON AS OFFER TO PROVIDE EMBASSY SECRETARIAL
SUPPORT, BUT WOULD STILL LIKE TO BRING A HUD SECRETARY AT
ITS EXPENSE. PARTLY THIS IS MOMENTUM FROM PREPARATIONS IN
TRAIN AND PARTLY IT REPRESENTS RECOGNITION OF UTILITY IN
ACCORDANCE WITH EMBASSY'S EARLIER ADVICE ON THIS SUBJECT.
HUB, HOWEVER, FINDS ITSELF IN A BOX VIS-A-VIS SOVIET HOSTS
WHO ARE SAYING THEY CAN PROVIDE ALL NECESSARY SUPPORT TO
MAKE UP FOR DIFFICULTIES CAUSED BY FIRE. MRS. HANCOCK
THEREFORE SUGGESTS THAT FOR VISA PURPOSES, THE SECRETARY BE
SENT TDY TO THE EMBASSY (HE COULD ALSO BE CALLED UPON TO
DO WORK FOR THE EMBASSY IN BETWEEN HUD TASKS). IMMEDIATE
IMPLICATIONS ARE SPACE TO WORK (HUD ENVISIONS EMBASSY TO
SEVER PRESENCE FROM DELEGATION IN SOVIET EYES) AND HOTEL
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ROOM RESERVATION. WE HAVE NOTED SPACE COMPLICATIONS AND
SUGGESTED SOVIETS COULD BE TOLD SECRETARY'S PRINCIPAL
PURPOSE WILL BE TO SUPPORT HARRIS ON OTHER HUD BUSINESS.
UNLESS YOU HAVE OTHER VIEWS, WE WILL PRESS THIS LINE
WITH HUD.

ALSO ON HARRIS VISIT, HUD HAS ASKED WHAT PLANS ARE NOW FOR

SECRETARY HARRIS' RETURN RECEPTION, PARTICULARLY WHETHER OR NOT SPASO WILL BE AVAILABLE. FINALLY, WE NO LONGER PLAN TO SEND BOB WINDSOR IN CONNECTION WITH HARRIS VISIT.

2. FOR THE AMBASSADOR: SORRY, OUR EFFORT FOR THE MEETING FAILED.

3. WE ARE SENDING YOU A FRONT-CHANNEL CABLE REPORTING THAT WATTERS HAD IN FACT SENT TOTH A LETTER WHICH WAS THE BASIS FOR THE LITGAZ ARTICLE. AN INTERESTING POINT LEFT OUT OF THE CABLE IS THAT TOTH HAS BEEN PERSONALLY ACQUAINTED WITH GENERAL HAIG SINCE THE DAYS TOTH COVERED THE WHITE

HOUSE, AND THE TWO MAINTAIN CONTACT. WATTERS SAID HE MAY VERY WELL HAVE MENTIONED HAIG IN HIS LETTER. WATTERS ASSURED US THAT NEITHER HE NOR DAO USE TOTH AS A SOURCE. VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 08-Sep-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE214454
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: MGARRISON:VB
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770324-0911
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770985/aaaactxh.tel
Line Count: 79
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 37282c4a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1345997
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: OFFICIAL-INFORMAL
TAGS: OGEN
To: MOSCOW
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/37282c4a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009